KORG MS-20 OWNERS MANUAL



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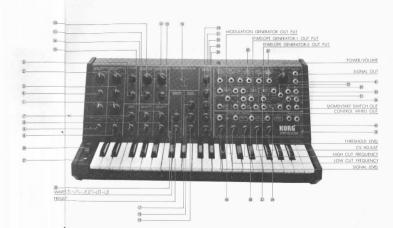




DECULOR REQUENCY MODULATION BY MG/T.EXT

BICUTOFF REQUINCY MODULATION BY IGS 2/BXT BYOTIAGE CONTROLLED AMPLIFER NOAI ENVELOPE GENERATOR-2 (EG-2) SHOLD TIME BRATIACK TIME SOCKAY TIME

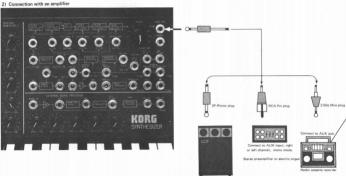
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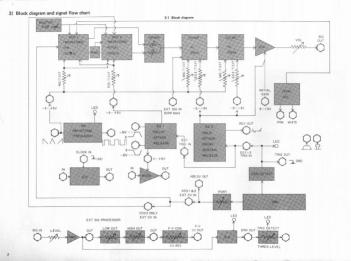
1) Introduction

Congratulations on purchasing the Korg MS-20 Synthesizer, This instrument has been engineered and manufactured using the most advanced techniques known today, and features the same unparal-Jeled technology utilized in Korg's revolutionary Polyphonic Synthesizers, the PS-3100 and PS-3300. With reasonable care, it will provide years of high quality and reliable use with unsurpassed stability, versatility and longevity,

Please read this manual carefully in order to get the most out of your MS-20.

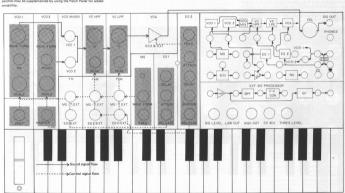


Keyboard amp/Guitar amp



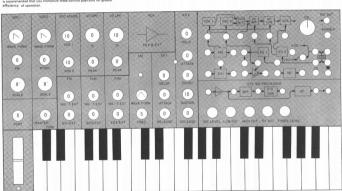
3.2 Signal Flowchart

This diagram shows the various signal paths in the MS-20 Syntheizer. Solid lines (-) represent sound (audio) signal flow; broken lines (- -) represent control signal (control voltage) flow. Control signals are connected from various parts of the synthesizer to the VOO, VCF and VCA by means of internel pathsh. These internal patches may be supplemented by using the Patch Panel for added vestability.



4) Normal Setting

This dispers illustrates control positions for the Normal Setting, In which setting, all modulation functions we disconnected, producing a basic unmodalised store, Since VCO-1 and VCO-2 sound together, adjust VCO-2's joint to match VCO-1's by means of the Pisic control. This Normal Setting is the foundation on which you will build when containing sounds with the MS-20', You will find it useful to be able to return to this setting whenever you start a new starth. Therefore, it is economised that you millional these control positions for greater



5) Features and functions

Voltage Controlled Oscillator (VCO) The VCO is the source of all sound for the MS-20 synthesizer. It is here that all pitch and basic tonal color elements are determined. The

MS-20 is equipped with two wide-range VCOs. (f) Scale:

This control is an Octave selector. With each halving of the number displayed, the pitch goes up one octave. For example the 4' (foot) scale indication is one octave higher than 8': similarly, 16' is one notave lower than 8" VCO-1 is variable from 32" to 4": VCO-2 is

variable from 16' to 2' 2 Waveform:

This selects the various assertorms that determine the basic tone. Each waveform has its own unique characteristic sound.

(Triangle Wave): A very basic waveform basing few barmonics, and possessing a soft, round tone color. Excellent for flute, vibes and other such effects. The Triangle Ways may be changed into a Sine

Wave (having no harmonics) by using the Low Pass Filter. (Sawtooth): A waveform rich in all harmonics, and one of the most useful to the conthesist. Used for string boss, unice and other harmonically rich sounds. The Voltage Controlled Filter (VCF) is

highly effective on Sawtooth Waveforms

(Rectangle Wave): A variable waveform having different timbres depending on the width of the top (called Pulse Width). When the top and bottom widths are equal, the waveform is called a Square Wave, and possesses the "hollow" qualities of the read family (i.e. the clarinet). As the pulse width proportionately decreases, a strong shift in tone color occurs: the sound becomes "oasal" in mustlifu. This wasseforce is called a Butes Many. Butes Middle is uncled

on the MS-20 using the PW control (see below).

(White Noise): An unpitched sound consisting of equal amounts of all frequencies. Used for wind surf sunshot nerrossion instrument and other such affects. The use of filters will amphetize certain. frequencies over others, creating many different sound effects.

(Square Wave): A variation of the Rectangle Wave with equal ton and bottom widths. A "hollow" sounding waveform with only odd numbered harmonics present. Used to simulate reed instruments

and other closed pine sounds.

(Pulse Wavel: This Rectangle Waveform has a relatively narrow top width, and is characterized by a "nosal" tone quality, with strong presence of upper harmonics. Used to simulate double reed instruments (eg. the oboe) and certain plucked string sounds (eg. harpsi-

(RINGIRing Modulator: This setting combines the sounds of both VCO's in such a way as to create sums and differences of all harmonics present. The result is a clangorous, "metallic" sound which is useful for page, chime and other such affects. The two Scale controls as well as the Pitch and PW controls all affect the resulting



This control varies VCO-2's pitch over a range of a one octave You can either match VCO-2's nitch to VCO-1, or set it at any relative interval (eg. third, fifth, etc.). Once set, pitch levels remain extramely stable troughout the placing rappe, thanks to Korn tech-

nology

This control varies the pulse width (PW) of VCO-1's Rectangle Wave, At "0", the waveform is symmetrical (i.e., Square Wave). Bosstian the control clockwise proportionately decreases the pulse width. Near the full clockwise position, the pulse width becomes so narrow as to virtually disappear, and no sound will be heard.



(§) Portamento:

other instruments.

Varies the rate of "olida" ... the time it takes the MS-20 to no from note to note. The shility to affect smooth transitions between notes is unique to the monophonic synthesizer, and adds to the creative

effects available T Master Tunes This control varies the pitch of both VCO's over a range of ± 2 semi-

tongs so that you can match the motherizer's nitch with that of Frequency Modulation controls: These controls allow other parts of the synthesizer to affect the VCO's nisch, for such effects as silvato, trills, nitch bends, "sweets", etc.

7 MG/T, EXT. Varies the intensity of Vibrato from the Modulation Generator (MG) Triangle Wave output, or whatever signal is natched into the TOTAL

REGI/EXT:

With no patch in the patch penel's FREQ lack, this control varies the affort of Equations Ganerator 1 on the VCO's. Advace the control and play a note on the keyboard. Note that the pitch of the note rises and falls corresponding to the Envelope curve (see Envelope Generator 1) With any external controller natched in (ee. Control. Wheel Reverse Envelope, etc.), the control now varies the intensity of this effect.

VCO Miver

Independent output level controls for VCO.1 and VCO.2 allow the user to freely actual volume balance of the two oscillators, or

eliminate both VCO's when processing external sound sources.

Voltage Controlled High-Pass Filter (VCHPF) This removes portions of the harmonic elements present in the wantern shore with the VCO section. The out-off fraguency is

variable from the low range on up. Use the Cut-Off Frequency knob or so external control voltage to determine the out-off frequency. IBCut-off Frequency: The scale on this knob goes from 0 ~ 10 but in the "O" position, the filter is completely open and the basic tone color of the waveform is left unchanged. As you turn up the knob, the tone color becomes brighter, Play a note on the keyboard, turn the knob, and note the effect,

This knob determines the amount of emphasis applied to the area right before the low rappe out-off frequency chosen with the knob above. When turned up to around its maximum position. the filter itself begins to perillete becoming in effect another sound source. This self-oscillation capability is another big feature found in the MS-20

Voltage Controlled Low-Pass Filter (VCLPF)

This removes upper harmonic elements of the waveforms chosen with the VCO section. The cut-off frequency is variable from the high range down and is adjusted by means of the Cut-Off Frequency 12 Cut-Off Frequency: The scale on the knob goes from 0 ~ 10

but in the "10" position, the filter is completely open and has no effect on tone color. As you turn the knob counterclockwise the sound will gradually become more rounded. At the lowest setting it becomes barely recognizable as a sound. Turn the knob while playing a key and note the effect.

This emphasizes the point right before the cut-off frequency. Near its highest position, the filter itself begins to oscillate. This self-oscillation, effect may be used as a separate

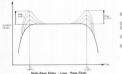
Cut-off Frequency Modulation Controls: These controls allow other parts of the synthesizer to vary each filter's cut-off frequency, in a manner similar to VCO frequency SHOT EVT

The Modulation Generator's Triangle Wave output modulates the filter frequency, for filter vibrato, automatic "wa-wa", etc.

This control varies the modulation intensity from Envelope Generator 2 (when no patch is in the respective filter CUT OFF FREQ, jack). This highly useful effect is called "filter contouring".

and allows you to obtain changes in tonal quality over time. Learn to use this function, and to experiment with different settings of Envelope Generator 2 controls. When an external device (e.g., Control Wheel, Pedal, Reverse Envelope.

etc.) is patched into the appropriate filter CUT OFF FREQ lack on the patch panel, this control varies the intensity of the external



(E.Voltage Controlled Amplifier (VCA):

This device varies the volume of sound passing through it in accordsoce with the sum of control voltages from Envelope Generator 2 (EC. 3) and from any automal controller patched into the patch panel VCA INITIAL GAIN inck.

A special purpose Envelope Generator which is internally patched to the MS-20's VCOs and MVCA's (Modulation VCA) control inputs for pitch bends and delayed vibrato effects respectively. In addition, both normal and reverse envelope outputs are available at the patch panel for greater flexibility.

(i) Delay Time: Determines the amount of time between the arrival of the trigger signal and the beginning of the attack cycle 16 Attack Time: Adjusts the time it takes for the Envelope voltage to

go from zero to its peak level following the end of the delay time. (i) Balassa Time: Determines the amount of time it takes for the voltage to drop to zero again following the termination of the trigger



Envelope Generator 2 (EG-2)

Envelope Generator 1 (EG-1):

This device paperates a rising and falling voltage which when applied to the VCA and VCE produces corresponding changes in volume and tone color respectively. The MS-20 features a unique 5 part Envelope Generator for added flexibility. When "trippered" fusually by rismentalise a mate on the hordward), the EC united sizes to a park at a rate set by the Attack Time control, then falls at the Decay Time

control rate to a level set by the Sustain Level control, and eventualby falls back to zero following termination of the trigger signal and Triangle the end of the Hold Time at the Release Time control rate. 39 Hold Time: Extends the trigger signal by a variable amount of time.

In effect, it "remembers" the trigger for a specified time period. WASSash Time: Sate the time the unitses takes to size to a peak 22 Decay Time: Sets the time the voltage takes to fall from the peak to

21 Sustain Lavel: Sets the voltage level which will be sustained for the

20 Release Time: Sets the time the voltage takes to fall to zero following termination of the trioner timal

The EG-2 output is internally patched to the VCA so that changes in volume over time will occur to sounds according to the EG-2 control

settinas. In addition, another EG-2 output is sent to the Filter Modulation controls (EG-2/EXT) so as to modulate the VCF's cut-off frequency, In this mode, the filter's "steady state" is the Sustain Level. The

above the Sustain level during the Attack cycle, will fall to the Sustrioper release.



2 Modulation Generator (MG)

This device paperates a variable spend loss fragularies modulation sinnal, and is also known as a Low Frequency Oscillator (LFO). Its main purpose is to provide vibrato, trills, repetitive attack, and other cyclical (i.e., repeating) types of modulations.

The MS-20 MG features two different signal toneous waveforms -triangle and rectangle - both of whose shapes are continuously variable by means of the Waveform control (see diagram). The MC franciscous is extented by the Essentency control and is displayed via a flashins red LED for easy visual confirmation. Both waveforms are available via patch panel connection. In addition, the MG's Triangle Wave is internally patched to the VCO's and

MCE's via their respective MG Modulation Intensity controls. This modulating signal is patched through the T. EXT lack on the patch nanel A different modulation sissal to a Sample & Hold "Thatscord"

Vibrato, Wheel-controlled Vibrato, etc.) may be substituted at any time and routed to all three MG intensity controls via this input inck





Manual Controllers

Consists of two Controllers located to the left of the keyboard for easy manipulation while playing. 20 Programmable Control Wheel:

When connected to various control inputs, this highly useful device can give such effects as pitch bends, modulation depth control. filter "sweeping", sample and hold "arpeggios", and many more.

27 Momentary Switch: This switch is useful for trispering either or both MS-20 envelope

generators, or for trispering external devices, i.e. another synthesizer

In addition to the internal patching system discussed above, the MS-20 Synthesizer features a versatile patch panel, which gives you greatly synanded creative possibilities. The following is a listing of the patch connections available.

2 VCO 1+2 CV IN: This jack allows an external controller, such as another Synthesizer, to vary the pitch levels of VCO-1 and VCO-2 instead of the MC-20% backward

33 VCO 2 CV IN: Same as above, but affects VCO-2 only. 39 TRIG IN: Allows the use of external trigger sources (e.g., the MG Bactanale output footswitch or another exotherizer or requestory)

to trigger the MS-20 envelope generators. 30 EG-1 TRIG IN: Same as 60 above, but triggers Envelope Generator

20 KRD CV OUT: Allows the MS-20 Kayboard to control the nitch of

SEKRD TRIC OUT:

Whenever you play a key on the keyboard a trigger signal is generated. Ordinarily, this trigger signal output is used along with the

KRD CV OUT to operate another synthesizer. 35 EXT SIGNAL IN: This lack allows such external sound sources as an electric quitar to be processed through the MS-20's VCF and with the VCO's by using the VCO Mixer controls. In addition, when using the ESP module, the original instrument sound can be mixed in

with the synthesized sounds by using this lack.

36 TOTAL EXT: This is the input to the MG modulation controls for the VCOs and VCF's. It is internally patched to the MG Triangle. wave of A different signal may be patched to this lack and used for

modulation purposes. 37 INITIAL GAIN (VCA): The VCA is internally patched to the EG-2 output so that changes in volume over time can be programmed. This lock allows an external controller to very the VCA along with the EG.2 When the sum of both controllers reaches 5 wills no further

changes in volume will occur. 38 Modulation Voltage Controlled Amplifier (MVCA) This device is a programmable VCA normally used to vary the modulation intensity (i.e., for delayed vibrato and modulation wheel functions). Other functions can easily be programmed via the patch

panel. To set up delayed vibrato, patch the MC Triangle some output into the MVCA input: the MVCA output is then connected to the TOTAL input lack. The MVCA control input is internally patched to the EG1 output. By use of EG1's Delay and Attack controls. delayed modulation (vibrato) functions are easily set up. Another variation would be to patch the Control Wheel output into the MUCA control input, for "Modulation Wheel" offerts, Many other variations can be created with a bit of imagination and experimenta-

3) Noise Generators (PINK, WHITE): These outputs are a source of both pick and white poise, which may be used as sound sources. foreshed jose the EVT SIGNAL IN Jack) or as modulation signals. White noise is also evailable as one of the VCO waveforms. Pink noise is a "darker" sounding white noise, with reduced high frequency components.

(i) Sample and Hold (S/H): A device which generates "stepped" functions from variable inputs. Useful for creating "random" note effects, arpeggios, etc. Whenever "triggered" by some other device, the S/H "samples" a varying signal source (e.g., waveforms, noise, etc.) patched into its input, and "holds" its instantaneous value until a new trigger is received and a new semple taken. The tripsering can be at regular intervals (e.g., from the MG Rectangle Wave) or from some other source. The disgram below illustrates the effect of sampling Pink Noise using the MG rectangle waveform as a triggering source, (Note: when using the MG Rectangle waveform, turn the Waveform control to the extreme clockwise position for best results.) Other possible inputs for sampling are the Wheel (make yor own arpeggios). Equations Generators from on or down the scale at a triangraignal)

or an external LEO. PHONES (Headphone OUT) Use this inch for brendohouses

42 External Signal Processor (ESD). This powerful module allows external instruments to sequally "olay" the MS-20 synthesizer, with the same power and flexibility as

achieved by playing the keyboard! Since everything in a synthesizer is voltage controlled, it is normally not possible to control a synthesizer directly with an external instrument, which generates audio signals. However, the MS-20's ESP module permits external sound sources to vary the synthesizer's pitch, volume, tone color and attack and decay by means of built-in Pitch and Envelope Followers, which produce control voltages conforming with the input signal's pitch and volume respectively. A tripper signal can also be produced to tripper the MS-20's Envelope Generators, for programmed attack/decay cycles.

The ESP Module consists of high gain preamplifier, vesiable bandpass filter, Ecoaloga Follower/Tripper Datastor, and Pitch to Voltage converter. The various outputs are available at the patch panel for connections to other parts of the synthesizer.

6) About Patching

Satting up a patch is one way of using the MS-20 more effectively. for wortherizing sounds. Patching involves using such outputs as the control wheel in a creative way to control various synthesizer functions thus increasing the variety of sounds and effects possible.

When setting up a patch, follow these steps to be sure you get the effect you want: (1) Where (VCA, VCF, VCO, etc.) do you want to create the effect

and what kind of effect do you went? (2) What kind of control signal will you need for that effect? (3) Which section of the synthesizer will generate that kind of

If you don't put your thoughts into this order before you start connecting patch cords from one lack to another, you will not be able to synthesize the sound you want. Even if you just use the internal natch without external natch courts there same rules apply When you want a certain sound, break it down into its elements of pitch (frequency), tone color or timbre (harmonic elements), and volume (envelope or amplitude change over time).

Then but there elements together by using the unique sections of the synthesizer Remember that the keyboard generates both a control voltage and a

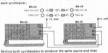
trigger signal every time you play a key. In other words it acts both as a control knob and a switch. Make full use of this and other less obvious possibilities for creating sounds. The more techniques you know, the more freely you'll be able to olay the music you want

7) Expanding Your System

* Here are two examples using the SO-10 Korn Analog Sequencer. (1) One simple idea is to set the SO-10 to determine the nitch and tone color produced by the MS-20 at each step. Then if you use the internal clock,of the SQ-10 to run through the steps, you will have automatic control of the MS-20.

(2) For a live performance, another effective way of using the SO-10 is to set up a patch so that the SQ-10 advances one step and changes the tone color every time you play a key on the MS-20.

depth and richness of the sound, Connect patch cords from the MS-20 KBD CV OUT and TRIG OUT lacks to the MS-10 VCO CV IN and TRIG IN lacks. With this arrangement, both synthesizers operate together when you play the keyboard of the MS-20. But if you try to play the MS-10 keyboard. nothing will happen because it has been disconnected by the petch cooks in the VCO CV IN and TRIG IN lacks. So decide which keyboard you want to use before you set up the petch. Try using separate amplifiers (or left and right stereo channels) for



changing the pitch slightly on one of them will give you a phase effect or let effect. This can be effectively used both on stage and for multi-track recording. 8) Using the External Signal Processor (E.S.P)

volume.

To use the ESP module, follow the steps listed below:

(1) Connect the external signal source (eq. electric quitar, microphone, electric piano, etc.) to the ESP's SIGNAL IN jack. (2) Adjust the Signal I may so that the Peak I mad indicator only flickers dightly when the external signal input reaches maximum.

(3) Your she Threshold I and appeal electroise while watching the TRIG OUT light, until it lights when playing at medium to high

(4) Connect F = V CV OUT to VCO 1+2 CV IN (or VCO 2 CV IN) sonnest TRIG OUT (ESP) to the TRIGGER IN lack, and the ENV

OUT lack to the VCA's INITIAL GAIN lack. (%) To adjust the Bandness Filtering section for proper operation first set LOW CUT EREO to "10" and HIGH CUT EREO to "0" Play the highest note the ESP is to pick up, and slowly turn the HIGH CUT control clockwise until the desired nitch is nicked unNext play the lowest note and turn the LOW CUT control counterclockwise until it is resistered on the MS-20. This completes the Bandpass Filter adjustments.

(6) Adjust the CV ADJUST control until the MS-20 pitch metches that of the input instrument. (7) If desired, the original sound of the instrument may be mixed with the synthesized sounds by patching the ESP's PRE-AMP out to

the EXTERNAL SIGNAL IN jack. Once the above steps have been completed, the MS-20 may be programmed for different sounds in the same manner as when the

keybord is utilized. 9) Caution

(1) On the MS-20 there are removable covers at eight places. If you removes these course you will see semi-fixed volume controls. But news trush these sections. They have been adjusted at the factory. to give optimum results. If you turn these knobs performance will deteriorate and the synthesizer may be damaged. [For example, since the VCO is the heart of the synthesizer, if its belance is upset,

(2) Pay attention to the voltage indications (0 ~ +5, -5V ~ +5V 5Von GND etc.) on the patching panel and their relationship with the block diagram and signal flow chart. Note that if you connect a -5 ~ +5V control signal to a 0 ~ +5V input jack, nothing will happen during the -5 ~ 0V portion of the control signal. It will

only operate from GV to +5V. So always consider both the characteristics of the output and the input and whether the signal is analogue or digital when you set up a patch.



10) Specifications - CONTROL SECTION > 1 Kauboard 2. Voltage controlled and Hater 1 (VCO 1)

* C-C 27 kmm//3 octions) * Scale [32', 16', 8', 4'] //6 octaves A 6 octaves (FM))

* Wanterm (A. A. PW / DI-B I) out the section I (I/A secondar) * Pulse wirfth affinst

2 Voltage controlled * Scale [16" 8" 4" 2"] //6 octobre + 6 anteres(E14)) oscillator 2(VCO 2) * Wastorm [h D fl Bing

* Pinch/(+1 octava) 4. VCO master control * Master tune/(1½ octaves) * Portemento

5 VCD miver

high pass filter

7. Voltage controlled

8. Envelope generator 1

9. Envelope generator 2

10. Modulation generator

11. Manual controller

12. P. switch & volume

1. Control section

13 Indicator

low pass filter

* Frequency modulation intensity by MG/T EXT * Frequency modulation intensity

* VCO-1 level * MCO-2 level * Cutoff frequency * Peak [flat ~ self OSC] * Cutoff frequency modulation

intensity by MG/T. EXT. * Cutoff frequency modulation * Cutoff frequency * Peak Ifflat - self OSCI * Cutoff frequency modulation

intensity by MGCT EXT * Cutoff frequency modulation intensity by EG2/EXT

· Attack time * Balance time * Hold time * Darwy time

* Sustain level * Balance sime * Waveform (N-A-AIII-III-LII)

* Momentary switch * Volume * Led [tripper, MG rate]

<EXTERNAL SIGNAL PROCESSOR > * Input signal level * Low out frequency * High cut frequency * CV adjust

2. Janual & custous * Signal in (auto pad system) * Amolifier out/0~+8V

* Rand pass filtered out * CV out (E/V) (0 - 49V * Trin cust/ The GND

3. Indicator (LED) * Beek Indicator * Tringer indicator PATCH PANEL SECTION >

1 Keyboard * Kauboard control voltage output lexponential)/0~+8V * Keyboard tripper output/ IL OND * VCO 1 + VCO 2 control voltage input (linear response)/0~+8V * VCO 2 control voltage input (linear response)/0~+8V * VCO 1 + VCO 2 external frequency control input (OCT/V)

-3V~+3V * External signal input/3 Von max * External MP filter cutoff frommon. control input (20CT/V)/-6V~5V control input (20CT/V)/-5V~+5V 4. VCO + VCF IT EXTLESV-+6V

0-5V 6. EG * E/S 1 equations signal pormal output/-5V → 0V * EG 1 envelope signal reverse ou output/+5V - 0V * EG1 + EG2 trisser input/ 3L OND * EG1 + trisper input/ 3- OND * EG2 envelope signal reverse output/ -b--60V

7 MG * Triangle output (A-A-A1/5Von * Rectangle output (ID-ID-LE)/ 8. Noise generator * Bink noise output/5Von * White poise output/5Vpp O Cample and hold * Clock tripper input/ 7- CND

* Sample signal input/6Vpp * 9/14 output/53/on 10. Modulation VCA * Control voltage input/0~+5V * Signal input/-5V~+5V # Clanal autous/- EV-- a EV

11. Manual controller * Control wheel output/-5V~0V~ 4837 * Momentary switch/ 3 GND * Signal output/2Vpp (output 12. Signal out

impedance 3.5kΩ)

* Headphones out/(80) 120m

13. Headphones 120mwatts * 10 watts · Power consumption * 569(W)*x 309(D) x 249(H) mm Dimensions • Weight

· Accessories * Patch cord, connecting cord/ 35 cm x 2, 3 m x 1 * Strond care Ontional anuinment

